



MIOSHA Fact Sheet

Construction Safety & Health Division

Masonry Wall Bracing

Masonry walls can and do blow over in the wind. Until walls have “final lateral support” there is a risk that they may fall and crush people. Final lateral support means the wall is connected to all structural elements such as roofs, floors, buttresses, crosswalls, and piers.

MIOSHA revised the Part 2. Masonry Wall Bracing standard to improve worker safety, effective May 28, 2010.

There are four major sections:

1) Establishing a “Restricted Zone”

- The masonry contractor must establish where and when restricted zones will be needed.
- A written restricted zone plan must be provided to the controlling contractor prior to the start of work.
- The restricted zone is simply an area around the wall where it may collapse. Signs are placed on the walls and around the perimeter.
- Only trained workers may enter the restricted zone.

2) Monitor the wind speed and evacuate the restricted zone when wind speed limits are exceeded.

- Each contractor in the restricted zone must monitor the wind speed.
- There are two “speed limits” for wind. Leave the restricted zone when wind speed limits are exceeded:
 - 20 mph gust for walls that are green (less than 24 hours old). This is called the “Initial Period.”
 - 35 mph gust for braced walls that are over 24 hours old. This is called the “Intermediate Period.”Even braced walls are only designed for a maximum of 40 mph wind. There is little margin for error.

3) Training requirements: Two groups require training:

- Group 1: Those who are involved in installing and maintaining the wall bracing and the restricted zone, as outlined in Rule 205 (2). This is typically the masons.
- Group 2: All others who must enter the restricted zone, as outlined in Rule 205 (3).
- Training records must be available at the jobsite.

4) Wall heights allowed and wall bracing designs

- Walls can only be built so high before bracing must be installed. Refer to Tables 1, 2, and 3 of the Masonry Wall Bracing Standard.
- Wall bracing designs must follow one of following two methods:
 - A Triangle Wall Bracing System, as specified in Rule 212.
 - A bracing plan that is designed using accepted engineering practices and the books Standard Practice for Bracing Masonry Walls Under Construction and Masonry Wallbracing Design Handbook.

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